

## Statement of Accounts

COUNTRY

SUBJECT

PLACE

ACQUIRED

- 1. The annual statement of accounts prepared by the central section of administration (finances) of the PCI must, according to party statutes, be examined by the Financial Control of the Party by the last day of June following the financial year concerned.
- 2. Although the items contained in the statement are not published in detail, public reference is made to a number of them. The statement does not, however, include funds and expenses of a confidential nature, such as subscriptions from certain industrialists and foreign sources, which are the subject of a special statement prepared by the administration section for approval by the Secretariat of the Party. A copy of both statements is sent to the Information Office of Communist Parties.
- 3. The routine statement of accounts is compiled in such a way that no excessive debit or credit is shown.

## Funds from Membership Subscriptions

- 4. Each annual membership card is sold to members by their federation. Women, the unemployed, and members under 18 pay 50 lire, the remainder pay 100 lire. Members are encouraged to take out cards for 1,000 lire which are known as "Comrade Supporter" cards.
- 5. Cards for 50 lire are issued by the directorate to federations for 30 lire; cards for 100 lire for 60 lire; the 1,000 lire cards for 500 lire. From the funds remaining, federations allow the sections five lire for each 50 lire card, ten lire for each 100 lire card, and an unspecified amount for each 1,000 lire card.
- 6. Each member is expected to purchase monthly stamps to affix on his card, the amount being arranged between the individual member and the federations

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according to the member's financial status. Comparatively wealthy members are expected to make a correspondingly greater monthly contribution. Where the monthly contribution exceeds the value of the stamp of the highest denomination, the extra sum is shared equally among directorate, federation, and sections. Otherwise, the amount received from monthly subscriptions is divided equally between federation and sections, less the original cost of the stamps provided by the directorate.

- 7. The minimum monthly subscription is ten lire.
- 8. Additional voluntary contributions paid by the wealthier members are retained by the federations, and are not transmitted to the directorate.
- 9. Communist deputies and senators pay a regular monthly sum to the directorate according to their financial positions. The minimum monthly sum expected from a deputy is 8,000 lire. Some of the deputies and senators resident in Rome pay as much as 20,000 lire a month.

## Sales of Party Newspapers and Literature

- 10. There are five editions of Unita (in Rome, Milan, Naples, Turin and Genoa).
  The Rome edition prints 180,000 copies and sells an average of 150,000;
  the Naples edition prints 20,000 and sells an average of 18,000. Each copy costs 15 lire.
- 11. In 1946 and 1947 Unita was published at a loss, but in 1948, partly because of the dismissal, on the grounds of inefficiency of a number of assistants and contributors, the deficit was small.
- 12. The average salary of both editors and employees of Unita is 25,000 lire per month.
- 13. The federations are permitted to retain an average of 10 percent of their takings from the sale of Rinascita, Vie Nuove, and party pamphlets and literature. In 1947 the net gain to the directorate from such sales amounted to 2,000,000 lire.
- 14. The directorate deliberately keeps the price of party literature as low as possible in order to encourage sales and does not consider it an important source of party funds.
- 15. If posters, pamphlets, mimeographed directives, circulars, and all printed matter not for sale are included in the total annual output of printed matter, it can be said that the cost to the Party of its press and printing activities is considerable, despite the fact that since 1945 paper has been supplied through the Soviet Embassy in Rome.

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## General Financial State of Party

- 16. Party propaganda asserts that the Party is self-supporting financially from membership subscriptions, contributions, and the sale of nowspapers and literature. In fact, however, if it relied entirely on these sources, its debts would be considerable.
- 17. All the federations show an annual deficit (which amounted in 1947 to an average of 40 percent above their receipts) which is made up by the directorate. In the Naples Federation, for example, the salaries of paid officials amounts to some 1,500,000 lire per month, all of which is supplied by the directorate since funds available to the federation from subscriptions, contributions, and the sale of literature barely cover routine office expenses.
- 18. The deficit in federation funds in 1948 was higher than in 1947. Numbers of members have not bought monthly stamps for their cards despite a campaign to induce them to do so, and voluntary contributions to the federations have greatly diminished. Industrialists and businessmen who in the past paid substantial sums to the Party directorate have now fallen off greatly in numbers.

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